

Niagara Falls, NY – Congresswoman Louise Slaughter (NY-28) today announced that the South Wilson Volunteer Fire Company has been awarded almost \$17,000 that will help them purchase needed equipment like hoses, ventilation rescue saws, ladders, and other items vital to the daily work of the fire company.

The grant comes from the Department of Homeland Security Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program which is intended to provide funding for fire departments to enhance their capabilities to protect the public and fire service personnel from fire and related hazards.

“Volunteer fire companies in my district and across the country have long battled funding cuts making it difficult for them to keep their communities safe,” said Slaughter. “As they know better than anyone, it is essential that the South Wilson Fire Department upgrade and modernize their equipment so the fire fighters have the resources necessary to carry out their lifesaving work. That is why I’m so pleased that this grant money is on its way to Wilson and will help them do just that.”

The South Wilson Fire Department will receive \$16,820 and was one of 17 fire companies in the state to receive funding from this program’s latest round of awards.

“We’re very appreciative of this grant because it allows little fire companies like us to stay current and provide safety and well-being for the people of Wilson,” said South Wilson Fire Chief John Thilk.

The grant program is an important component of a larger effort by the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen the nation’s preparedness and ability to respond to fire and related hazards.

Since 2001, the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program has provided approximately \$4.6 billion in grants to first-responder organizations to obtain much-needed emergency response equipment, personal protective equipment, firefighting and emergency vehicles, and training.